

# Bureau of Land Management



## 2004 Montana/Dakotas A Report to the Public



# Bureau of Land Management



## Montana/Dakotas

*Caring for Our Natural Resources  
and  
Managing Lands for Public Needs*

# Bureau of Land Management

## MONTANA/DAKOTAS BLM ACREAGE

### Surface Acres

Montana	7,961,248
North Dakota	58,837
South Dakota	274,450
TOTAL	8,294,535

### Subsurface Acres

Montana	37,787,318
North Dakota	5,614,146
South Dakota	3,777,420
TOTAL	47,178,884

for breakdown by county, and other links contained in this report, go to [www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/index.html](http://www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/index.html)

## WILDLIFE

### Fish and Wildlife Habitat

- 600 species of fish and wildlife
- 3,500 acres of lakes and reservoirs
- 2,500 miles of streams
- 200,000 acres of waterfowl habitat having international importance

### Threatened and Endangered Species

- 4 threatened and endangered mammals
- 4 threatened and endangered birds
- 3 threatened and endangered fish
- 2 threatened and endangered plants
- 1 threatened and endangered invertebrate

### Special Status Species

- Mammals -- List updated in 2004
- Birds -- List updated in 2004
- Fish -- List updated in 2004
- Plants -- Update in progress

### Wild Horses

- Pryor Mountain National Wild Horse Range covers 39,651 acres
- 142 Pryor horses on the range; 95 +/- 10 percent is the appropriate management level (currently under revision)
- 46 horses/burros adopted at satellite adoptions
- 84 compliance checks completed
- 150 animals titled

## LANDSCAPE

### Wilderness

- 36 Wilderness Study Areas totaling 447,327 acres
  - 173,499 acres in 15 areas recommended for wilderness designation (about .02% of the total BLM-managed land base in MT/Dakotas)
  - 273,828 acres in 30 study areas not recommended for wilderness designation
- 4 Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas totaling 5,236 acres awaiting study. Tobacco Root Tack-On will be studied in the Dillon Resource Management Plan and Elk Horn will be studied in the Butte Resource Management Plan.
- One 6,000-acre designated wilderness area, the Bear Trap Canyon Unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness (Montana's first and only designated BLM wilderness area)

for a complete list of study areas, go to [www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/wsa.pdf](http://www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/wsa.pdf)

### Rangeland Management

- 4,091 cattle/buffalo operators; 1,096,497 animal unit months (AUMs) authorized
  - 148 horse/burro operators; 4,641 AUMs authorized
  - 211 sheep/goat operators; 40,243 AUMs authorized
- for detailed grazing statistics, go to [www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/2004/grazing.pdf](http://www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/2004/grazing.pdf)

### Forestry

- 400,000 acres of commercial forest land
- 138,000 acres of non-commercial forest land
- 8,979,225 board feet of timber sold for \$1,567,230

### Forest Development

- 0 acres of seeding
- 15 acres planted
- 0 acres of site preparation
- 200 acres of protective measures applied
- 528 acres of pre-commercial thinning
- 2,628 acres of commercial thinning
- 161 acres of stand conversions

### Noxious Weed Management

#### FY2004:

- 176,350 acres of noxious weeds treated with integrated weed control methods including chemical, physical, mechanical, and biological weed control agents, and domestic animals (sheep or goats)
- 704,820 acres inventoried and mapped for noxious weeds
- 66,250 acres monitored for Integrated Weed Management evaluation
- About 9.3 million biological control agents collected and distributed

#### To date:

- Biological weed control agents established on about 161.95 acres
- 69 weed management areas
- Interagency agreements in place with Agricultural Research Service and Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service for biological control
- Cooperative agreements in place with 4 Montana State University researchers for biological control
- Cooperative agreements in place with more than 75 percent of county weed districts
- Provide funding for Montana Education and Awareness Committee and Center for Invasive Plant Management
- Work closely with Montana Department of Agriculture, Montana Weed Control Association, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the US Forest Service

### Cultural and Paleontological Resources

- 1.2 million acres inventoried to date
- 9,436 cultural properties recorded to date

## MINERALS

### Solid Minerals

#### Montana

- 15 producing Federal and Indian coal leases on 40,557 acres
- 30,889,489 tons of coal produced, generating \$33,563,258 in royalties

#### North Dakota

- 5 producing Federal and Indian coal leases on 2,261 acres
  - 2,433,389 tons of coal produced, generating \$491,976 in royalties
- for breakdown, go to [www.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/2004/coal.pdf](http://www.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/2004/coal.pdf)

# Report to the Public

## Locatable Minerals

- 1,033 new claims recorded
- 1,098 claims closed
- 8,761 claim maintenance fees processed
- \$1,024,265 in fees received for mining claim recordation, annual maintenance fees and annual assessment fees
- 2,516 claims covered by 537 small miner waivers
- 11,092 unpatented mining claims
- 6 claims relinquished
- 0 claims patented
- 208,877 active and closed unpatented mining claims on record

for detailed statistics, go to [www.blm.gov/lr2000](http://www.blm.gov/lr2000)

## Fluid Minerals

### Federal Oil and Gas Leases Issued

	Competitive		Noncompetitive	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
Montana	91	57,925	98	163,252
North Dakota	138	77,784	16	4,739
South Dakota	10	6,878	3	3,825
TOTAL	239	142,587	117	171,816

### Indian Oil and Gas Leases in Effect as of 9/30/04

	Producing		Non-producing	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
Montana	430	566,473	434	179,728
North Dakota	27	5,256	206	25,546
South Dakota	1	160	11	1,280
TOTAL	458	571,889	651	206,554

### Federal Oil and Gas Leases in Effect as of 9/30/04

	Producing		Non-producing	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
Montana	1,385	747,171	2,297	3,276,960
North Dakota	565	299,939	800	392,125
South Dakota	73	33,457	61	64,795
TOTAL	2,023	1,080,567	3,158	3,733,880

## Oil and Gas Lease Sales

- 6 competitive oil and gas lease sales held
- 417,975 acres in 521 parcels offered
- 152,851 acres in 251 parcels leased
- \$3,950,721 bonus bids received

for detailed lease sale statistics, go to [www.mt.blm.gov/annrpt/2004/fluids.pdf](http://www.mt.blm.gov/annrpt/2004/fluids.pdf)

### Indian Oil and Gas Competitive Lease Sale Results

State	Parcels Sold	Acreage Sold	Bonus Bid Received
Montana	24	3,646.94	\$63,969.55
North Dakota	12	1,762.12	\$14,004.80
South Dakota	0	0	0
TOTAL	36	5,409.06	\$77,974.35

The production and royalty information normally provided by the Minerals Management Service (MMS) is unavailable at this time.

## SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

### Construction/Maintenance/Engineering

- 12 administrative sites constructed/maintained
- 16 bridges and major culverts inspected/maintained
- 6 easement surveys completed
- 120 facilities surveyed and designed
- 48 hazard class reservoir inspections
- 1,150 miles of trails and roads maintained
- 272 range improvement projects completed
- 193 recreation sites constructed/maintained
- 13 deferred maintenance projects completed
- 9 recreation fee site deferred maintenance projects
- 9 architectural & engineering task orders

### Geographic Information Systems/Mapping Science

- Maintained statewide digital data sets including ownership. Merged oil and gas coverages for SDE (Spatial Data Engine) conversion. Transitioned data from these libraries to SDE. Developed and verified data standards and their documentation. Maintained EZ mapper and oil and gas mapping applications.
- Edited and revised 17 1:100,000 maps and 8 river float guides for automation
- Provided mapping support for numerous projects
- Provided visuals and analyses for public meetings and briefings
- Completed the Musselshell Breaks Watershed plan
- Provided GIS analysis and mapping support for Winslow Fire and for BAER team assessment of the Winslow Fire
- Cooperated with US Geological Survey to collect and use BARC (Burned Area Reflectance Class) satellite imagery data
- Produced Big Sky Byway kiosk maps
- Updated grazing allotments, South Dakota Field Office Exemption Area ownership with GPS corners, and the RMP boundaries
- Completed aerial photography registration of historic water rights
- Digitized Lewistown Field Office's wildlife data and Missoula Field Office's geology data
- Provided GIS analytic, mapping and presentation support for numerous projects
- Completed a potential vegetation type classification for Eastern Montana FRCC and a statewide community-at-risk fire assessment
- Maintained and provided programming and data entry support for the statewide interagency weeds database and applications
- Provided training on GPS and GIS software and analysis
- Developed and maintained oil and gas automated field maps (single and multi-township maps)
- Maintained GIS websites and provided maps and digital data to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Forest Service, and other government and private entities

### Cadastral Survey

- 203 miles resurveyed
- 283 miles approved
- 371 survey monuments set
- 661 survey monuments approved
- 212 plats approved

for breakdown by agency, go to [www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/2004/cadastral.pdf](http://www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/2004/cadastral.pdf)

### Geographic Coordinated Data Base

- 309 townships collected
- 546 townships maintained

# 2004

## Volunteer Program

- 644 volunteers contributed 33,214 hours valued at \$570,946; the cost to MT/DKs BLM was \$99,568

*for breakdown by office, go to [www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/2004/volunteers.pdf](http://www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/2004/volunteers.pdf)*

## Fire Management

- BLM took action on 155 fires; of these, 64 were on BLM lands (5,895 acres) and 91 were on non-BLM lands (4,575 acres)
- 137 fires were lightning-caused (10,146 acres); 18 were human-caused (325 acres)
- 26 prescribed fires were accomplished on 5,357 acres

## Law Enforcement and Resource Protection

- Conducted investigations into damage of archaeological sites and removal of paleontological resources
- Continued investigations for financial cost recovery involving fire suppression and damage caused by a human-caused wildfire
- Continued investigations into fraud related to the Oil & Gas and Hard Rock Mining programs
- Provided planning support for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, including a partnership with the Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association.
- Contributed to public safety plans at the Monuments
- Issued numerous notices for resource violations
- Assisted in search and rescue operations and local law enforcement as requested
- Provided security on wild fires in Montana
- Provided special operation support to various other states
- Conducted a special operation at the Black Hills Motorcycle Rally in Sturgis, SD
- Provided advice and assistance to BLM offices regarding public and employee safety during increased terrorism threat levels.

## PLANNING & ACTIONS

### Land Use Planning and Environmental Coordination

- 9 Resource Management Plans cover Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota
- 1 management framework plan covers Dillon Field Office area
- 5 new planning efforts in progress: Dillon, Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, Butte, Miles City, and West Hi Line Resource Management Plans

*for a detailed list, go to [www.mt.blm.gov/lands/nepastatus.htm](http://www.mt.blm.gov/lands/nepastatus.htm)*

### Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

- 43 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

*for a complete list with locations and acreage, go to [www.mt.blm.gov/lands/accec.html](http://www.mt.blm.gov/lands/accec.html)*

### Lands Casework

- 81 rights-of-way and amendments issued; 33 renewed
- 6,446.95 acres of public land exchanged for 969.44 acres of private land
- 4 permits/leases issued; 8 renewed
- 232 patents issued for Bureau of Indian Affairs
- 3 Forest Service Exchange conveyance documents (patents/deeds) issued
- 2 easement acquisitions for public access
- 6 Land and Water Conservation Fund acquisitions
- 1 Donation of 354.30 acres
- 1 withdrawal processed for 400.92 acres
- 8 patents issued for the Bureau of Reclamation through Special Legislation

*for more detailed statistics, go to [www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/index.html](http://www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/index.html)*

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

### Hazardous Materials Management

- Completed follow-up CASHE audits (internal environmental audit program) at the offices as scheduled by the CASHE audit team. (Every office gets a follow-up on a three-year cycle.)
- Completed Crystal Cave closure and stabilization in the Judith Mountains east of Lewistown.
- Completed cultural and bat surveys for physical safety hazard abatement (including adit and shaft closures) associated with abandoned mine lands. Closed approximately a dozen hazardous openings with backfill or bat gates as appropriate. About 20 more openings will be closed in 2005.
- Completed and presented to ARCO a claim for damages to BLM lands in the Clark Fork River Superfund site. The claim was made following the Natural Resource Damage Assessment provisions of the Superfund Act. Negotiations with ARCO to settle the claim will continue in 2005.
- Disposed of hazardous unused and waste products from the field offices and State Office, including clandestine drug lab wastes on the public lands.
- Provided necessary hazmat training for staff statewide.

## RECREATION & VISITOR SERVICES

In 2004, the Montana/Dakotas the Bureau of Land Management hosted almost 3.3 million visits to public lands and collected more than \$291,672 in recreation permit fees. These funds stay on-site to improve facilities and visitor services. The top 5 activities were:

- Interpretation, Education and Nature Study
- Camping and Picnicking
- Hunting
- Boating (motorized and non-motorized)
- Fishing

*for breakdown of visitor activities, go to [www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/2004/visdays.pdf](http://www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/2004/visdays.pdf)*

### Montana public lands provide a diversity of "settings" for the public to enjoy:

- 8.3 million acres of public lands of varied landscapes and opportunities
- 2,500 miles of streams
- 60,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs
- 40 Wilderness Study Areas
- 32 boating access sites
- 19 Watchable Wildlife sites
- 5 Outstanding Natural Areas
- 5 Backcountry Byways (185 miles)
- 100+ miles of groomed snowmobile/cross country ski trails
- 400+ family camping units
- 15 day-use sites and 24 developed recreation sites
- 400+ undeveloped recreation sites
- 27 miles of mountain bike trail in the Blackfoot River Corridor
- Cabin Rentals in Axolotl Lakes and the Garnet Ghost Town areas

### National Monuments

- Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument (374,976 acres)
- Pompeys Pillar National Monument (51 acres)

### National Trails

- 310 miles of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail
- 13 miles of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail
- 10 miles of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail
- 30 miles of the Garnet Winter Trail
- 9 miles of the Bear Trap Canyon Recreation Trail
- 12 miles of the Centennial Trail (South Dakota)

### National Historic Landmarks

- Garnet Ghost Town

# Montana/Dakotas

## Of special interest, our public lands offer:

- 149 miles of the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River
- 6,000 acres of the Bear Trap Canyon Wilderness
- Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range (about 38,000 acres)
- Interpretive/Educational signs, brochures and facilities

## Recreational Achievements and Events in 2004

- Provided visitor enhancements at the Glendive OHV area
- Two Lewis and Clark Signature Events held in North and South Dakota
- Two informational/interpretive brochures were produced to improve visitor information and awareness for our monuments
- Seven National Public Lands Days events held for volunteers across the state
- Elk Basin Race – Motor cross event in Billings
- Filming Events on Montana public lands – Miles City & Missoula
- Alkali Creek Mountain Bike Race – South Dakota
- National United States Border Collie Handlers Association Sheepdog Finals – South Dakota
- Visual Resource Management Inventory of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument
- Numerous interpretive activities (walks, star gazing, natural resource education tours)

## ECONOMIC IMPACTS

### Personnel

- 653 total employees: 517 permanent full-time; 48 temporary; 70 career seasonal; and 18 SCEP (student career educational program)

for breakdown by field office, go to [www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/2004/employment.pdf](http://www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/2004/employment.pdf)

### Salaries by Community

Ashland, Montana	\$282,650
Belle Fourche, South Dakota	716,123
Billings, Montana	10,834,018
Bridger, Montana	23,863
Butte, Montana	2,564,512
Camp Crook, South Dakota	53,624
Dickinson, North Dakota	1,387,495
Dillon, Montana	1,819,169
Ekalaka, Montana	29,761
Fort Benton, Montana	77,427
Fort Meade, South Dakota	97,529
Fort Totten, North Dakota	62,375
Glasgow, Montana	605,903
Great Falls, Montana	664,289
Havre, Montana	567,607
Helena, Montana	58,735
Jordan, Montana	70,553
Lewistown, Montana	3,983,834
Malta, Montana	764,433
Miles City, Montana	2,596,553
Missoula, Montana	1,833,126
Poplar, Montana	95,140
Wolf Creek, Montana	109,246
Zortman, Montana	76,907
Total	\$29,374,872
Total Budget	\$78,498,102

## Federal Transfer Payments (including PILT payments)

- \$43,603,629 paid to state of Montana
- \$5,958,287 paid to state of North Dakota
- \$2,970,623 paid to state of South Dakota

for breakdown of payments by state, go to [www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/2004/fedpay.pdf](http://www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/2004/fedpay.pdf)

### MONTANA PILT

Local Unit of Government	Total Paid This FY	Local Unit of Government	Total Paid This FY
Anaconda-Deer Lodge	\$278,185	Madison	501,579
Beaverhead	528,399	McCone	168,087
Big Horn	7,858	Meagher	115,577
Blaine	472,885	Mineral	121,881
Broadwater	385,936	Missoula	653,528
Butte-Silver Bow	296,832	Musselshell	102,325
Carbon	553,359	Park	815,523
Carter	112,769	Petroleum	46,760
Cascade	278,350	Phillips	232,000
Chouteau	193,330	Pondera	136,315
Custer	449,788	Powder River	113,630
Daniels	121	Powell	353,646
Dawson	27,005	Prairie	75,566
Fallon	11,858	Ravalli	1,408,485
Fergus	652,162	Richland	12,959
Flathead	1,289,535	Roosevelt	1,949
Gallatin	928,387	Rosebud	61,803
Garfield	115,029	Sanders	173,483
Glacier	555,233	Sheridan	338
Golden Valley	41,132	Stillwater	251,505
Granite	133,496	Sweet Grass	313,408
Hill	52,631	Teton	366,822
Jefferson	563,902	Toole	50,265
Judith Basin	174,068	Treasure	142
Lake	159,735	Valley	491,925
Lewis and Clark	1,284,086	Wheatland	84,318
Liberty	40,962	Wibaux	5,120
Lincoln	331,525	Yellowstone	104,439
		TOTAL	\$16,681,936

for budget breakdown, go to [www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/2004/budget.pdf](http://www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/2004/budget.pdf)



### NORTH DAKOTA PILT

<i>Local Unit of Government</i>	<i>Total Paid This FY</i>	<i>Local Unit of Government</i>	<i>Total Paid This FY</i>
Barnes	8,629	McLean	216,221
Benson	4,760	Mercer	45,310
Billings	59,401	Morton	18,390
Bottineau	179	Mountrail	83,934
Bowman	7,505	Pierce	4,775
Burke	217	Ramsey	519
Burleigh	20,544	Ransom	51,622
Cavalier	1,890	Renville	310
Dickey	886	Richland	34,043
Divide	1,902	Rolette	148
Dunn	58,941	Sargent	2,368
Eddy	111	Sheridan	40,672
Emmons	43,960	Sioux	42,587
Golden Valley	16,217	Slope	25,392
Grand Forks	1,643	Stark	845
Grant	12,440	Steele	190
Griggs	2,329	Stutsman	12,621
Kidder	3,014	Walsh	648
Logan	1,165	Ward	445
McHenry	3,158	Wells	11,647
McIntosh	637	Williams	65,898
McKenzie	96,974	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,005,087</b>

### SOUTH DAKOTA PILT

<i>Local Unit of Government</i>	<i>Total Paid This FY</i>	<i>Local Unit of Government</i>	<i>Total Paid This FY</i>
Beadle	409	Jackson	148,497
Bon Homme	22,076	Jones	27,288
Brown	112	Lawrence	52,742
Brule	16,668	Lyman	135,228
Buffalo	17,365	McPherson	224
Butte	223,690	Meade	55,577
Campbell	30,466	Pennington	423,253
Charles Mix	36,074	Perkins	152,803
Clark	134	Potter	22,237
Corson	91,844	Roberts	763
Custer	135,246	Shannon	2,760
Day	292	Spink	1,030
Dewey	109,928	Stanley	151,667
Fall River	335,281	Sully	66,488
Gregory	37,239	Tripp	224
Haakon	6,513	Walworth	27,288
Hand	112	Yankton	3,367
Harding	115,122	Ziebach	2,443
Hughes	51,649	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,506,524</b>
Hyde	2,425		



# AN ANNUAL REPORT



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**Bureau of Land Management**

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